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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Jessica Kerr: Who makes judges? | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica_kerr_who_makes_judges

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

shroud

n. a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically

synonym: cover, veil, cloak

(1) **shroud** of mystery, (2) **shroud** of suspicion

The protective **shroud** covered the body in the coffin at the funeral.

mystique

n. an air of secrecy, intrigue, or mystery surrounding something or someone; a sense of fascination or aura of inexplicable attraction

synonym: aura, charm, enchantment

(1) **mystique** surrounding, (2) celebrity **mystique**

The actress had a **mystique** about her that drew people to her.

fender

n. a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact

synonym: cover, bumper, cushion

(1) front **fender**, (2) vehicle **fender**

He had a **fender** bender last night.

wield

v. to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
synonym: exert, manage, handle

(1) **wield** her authority, (2) **wield** a bad influence
They **wielded** enormous power and influence.

erode

v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

synonym: wear away, deteriorate, corrode

(1) **erode** coast, (2) **erode** trust

The ongoing budget cuts have **eroded** the quality of education in many schools.

corruptible

adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral

synonym: bribable, dishonest, venal

(1) **corruptible** officials, (2) **corruptible** judges

Bureaucracies are more **corruptible** than other systems or organizations.

restrain

v. to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses

synonym: restrict, limit, control

(1) **restrain** from violence, (2) **restrain** a child

The police had to **restrain** the suspect after he became violent during the arrest.

veil

n. a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure

synonym: cover, mask, (verb) conceal

(1) **veil** of mystery, (2) **veil** her face

He lifted her **veil** with both hands.

courtroom

n. a room in which a court of law is held
synonym: law court, tribunal

(1) **courtroom** drama, (2) **courtroom** trial

The eyewitness took the stand in the **courtroom** and gave testimony crucial to the case.

stale

adj. no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting
synonym: old, uninteresting, dull

(1) a **stale** joke, (2) **stale** smell

The bread was **stale** and not fit for eating.

anesthesia

n. a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes

(1) **anesthesia** for surgery, (2) local **anesthesia**

He is in general **anesthesia** under the surgeon.

scalpel

n. a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body

synonym: knife, surgical instrument, blade

(1) surgical **scalpel**, (2) precision **scalpel**

The surgeon used an electric **scalpel** to make a precise incision during the operation.

medicinal

adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease

synonym: curative, therapeutic, healing

(1) **medicinal** chemistry, (2) traditional **medicinal**

The **medicinal** properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.

privatize

v. to transfer ownership or control of a business or industry from government or public control to private ownership or control; to make something into a private enterprise or organization

synonym: deregulate, denationalize

(1) **privatize** post offices, (2) **privatize** healthcare

The government wants to **privatize** specific industries to boost their efficiency.

incompetence

n. lack of physical or intellectual ability or qualifications to do something successfully or as it should be done

synonym: inability, incapacity, ineptitude

(1) have a feeling of **incompetence**, (2) **incompetence** of urine

Her behavior testified to her **incompetence**.

baptize

v. to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)

synonym: purify, immerse

(1) **baptize** a baby, (2) **baptize** with water

The priest **baptized** my father on his deathbed.

magistrate

n. a civil officer or judge who is authorized to administer the law, particularly in a local or lower court

synonym: judge, administrator, official

(1) chief **magistrate**, (2) **magistrate** court

The local **magistrate** is well-respected in the community for his commitment to justice.

terrifying

adj. very frightening or intimidating

synonym: frightening, intimidating, alarming

(1) **terrifying** experience, (2) **terrifying** events

Large earthquakes often generate **terrifying** tsunamis.

relentless

adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks

synonym: unyielding, tireless, unremitting

(1) **relentless** attack, (2) face **relentless** pressure

The athlete's **relentless** training paid off in the end.

judiciary

n. persons who administer or enforce justice

synonym: tribunal, bench, court

(1) independence of the **judiciary**, (2) member of the **judiciary**

The **judiciary** of the case was inexperienced and lacked locally educated attorneys.

ready-made

adj. (of a product) already made or prepared; (of an idea or solution) preconceived or complete and requiring no further development or work

synonym: pre-made, off-the-shelf, prefab

(1) **ready-made** templates, (2) **ready-made** curtains

I prefer using **ready-made** meals when short on time and don't feel like cooking from scratch.

quo

n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

synonym: status, condition, state

(1) status **quo** politician, (2) **quo** warranto

The company has been successful in maintaining the status **quo**.

stark

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

synonym: crude, blunt, desolate

(1) **stark** landscape, (2) **stark** truth

The scenery of the battlefield was **stark** and grey.

stigma

n. a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person

synonym: mark, blemish, disgrace

(1) social **stigma**, (2) **stigma** against obesity

The mental health **stigma** often prevents people from seeking treatment.

hindsight

n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect

synonym: retrospect, afterthought

(1) **hindsight** bias, (2) 20/20 **hindsight**

With **hindsight**, we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. co_____om trial | <i>n.</i> a room in which a court of law is held |
| 2. me_____al chemistry | <i>adj.</i> of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease |
| 3. co_____om drama | <i>n.</i> a room in which a court of law is held |
| 4. cor_____le judges | <i>adj.</i> capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral |
| 5. surgical sc_____l | <i>n.</i> a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body |
| 6. er__e coast | <i>v.</i> to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time |
| 7. ter_____ng experience | <i>adj.</i> very frightening or intimidating |
| 8. local ane_____ia | <i>n.</i> a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes |
| 9. v__l her face | <i>n.</i> a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure |
| 10. cor_____le officials | <i>adj.</i> capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral |
| 11. celebrity my_____ue | <i>n.</i> an air of secrecy, intrigue, or mystery surrounding something or someone; a sense of fascination or aura of inexplicable attraction |

ANSWERS: 1. courtroom, 2. medicinal, 3. courtroom, 4. corruptible, 5. scalpel, 6. erode, 7. terrifying, 8. anesthesia, 9. veil, 10. corruptible, 11. mystique

12. sh___d of suspicion *n.* a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically
13. 20/20 hi_____ht *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
14. rel_____ss attack *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
15. status q_o politician *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
16. vehicle fe___r *n.* a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact
17. v__l of mystery *n.* a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure
18. rea_____de curtains *adj.* (of a product) already made or prepared; (of an idea or solution) preconceived or complete and requiring no further development or work
19. q_o warranto *n.* the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue
20. st__k truth *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

ANSWERS: 12. shroud, 13. hindsight, 14. relentless, 15. quo, 16. fender, 17. veil, 18. ready-made, 19. quo, 20. stark

21. st__k landscape *adj.* empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications
22. my_____ue surrounding *n.* an air of secrecy, intrigue, or mystery surrounding something or someone; a sense of fascination or aura of inexplicable attraction
23. wi__d her authority *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
24. inc_____nce of urine *n.* lack of physical or intellectual ability or qualifications to do something successfully or as it should be done
25. independence of the ju_____ry *n.* persons who administer or enforce justice
26. pr_____ze healthcare *v.* to transfer ownership or control of a business or industry from government or public control to private ownership or control; to make something into a private enterprise or organization
27. a st__e joke *adj.* no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting
28. have a feeling of inc_____nce *n.* lack of physical or intellectual ability or qualifications to do something successfully or as it should be done
29. st___a against obesity *n.* a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person
30. mag_____te court *n.* a civil officer or judge who is authorized to administer the law, particularly in a local or lower court

ANSWERS: 21. stark, 22. mystique, 23. wield, 24. incompetence, 25. judiciary, 26. privatize, 27. stale, 28. incompetence, 29. stigma, 30. magistrate

31. front fe___r *n.* a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact
32. member of the ju_____ry *n.* persons who administer or enforce justice
33. ba_____e with water *v.* to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)
34. re_____in a child *v.* to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses
35. pr_____ze post offices *v.* to transfer ownership or control of a business or industry from government or public control to private ownership or control; to make something into a private enterprise or organization
36. ter_____ng events *adj.* very frightening or intimidating
37. re_____in from violence *v.* to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses
38. precision sc_____l *n.* a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body
39. er__e trust *v.* to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time

ANSWERS: 31. fender, 32. judiciary, 33. baptize, 34. restrain, 35. privatize, 36. terrifying, 37. restrain, 38. scalpel, 39. erode

40. ane_____ia for surgery *n.* a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes
41. sh____d of mystery *n.* a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically
42. hi_____ht bias *n.* understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect
43. rea_____de templates *adj.* (of a product) already made or prepared; (of an idea or solution) preconceived or complete and requiring no further development or work
44. wi__d a bad influence *v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc
45. social st____a *n.* a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person
46. traditional me_____al *adj.* of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
47. ba_____e a baby *v.* to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)
48. face rel_____ss pressure *adj.* persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
49. st__e smell *adj.* no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting

ANSWERS: 40. anesthesia, 41. shroud, 42. hindsight, 43. ready-made, 44. wield, 45. stigma, 46. medicinal, 47. baptize, 48. relentless, 49. stale

50. chief mag_____te

n. a civil officer or judge who is authorized to administer the law, particularly in a local or lower court

ANSWERS: 50. magistrate

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The athlete's _____ training paid off in the end.
adj. persistent and determined; continuing despite difficulties or setbacks
2. The protective _____ covered the body in the coffin at the funeral.
n. a length of cloth or other material used to cover or wrap a dead body; something that conceals or obscures something else, often used metaphorically
3. The mental health _____ often prevents people from seeking treatment.
n. a mark of shame or disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person
4. The ongoing budget cuts have _____ the quality of education in many schools.
v. to gradually wear away or break down (rock, soil, or other material) through the action of wind, water, or other natural agents; to gradually weaken or undermine (something) over time
5. The _____ of the case was inexperienced and lacked locally educated attorneys.
n. persons who administer or enforce justice
6. Large earthquakes often generate _____ tsunamis.
adj. very frightening or intimidating
7. The eyewitness took the stand in the _____ and gave testimony crucial to the case.
n. a room in which a court of law is held

ANSWERS: 1. relentless, 2. shroud, 3. stigma, 4. eroded, 5. judiciary, 6. terrifying, 7. courtroom

8. The government wants to _____ specific industries to boost their efficiency.
- v. to transfer ownership or control of a business or industry from government or public control to private ownership or control; to make something into a private enterprise or organization
9. The police had to _____ the suspect after he became violent during the arrest.
- v. to prevent or hold back from doing something, often by physical or moral force; to limit or restrict one's actions or behavior; to control or moderate strong emotions or impulses
10. He is in general _____ under the surgeon.
- n. a state of controlled, temporary loss of bodily sensation or awareness that is induced for medical purposes
11. I prefer using _____ meals when short on time and don't feel like cooking from scratch.
- adj. (of a product) already made or prepared; (of an idea or solution) preconceived or complete and requiring no further development or work
12. Bureaucracies are more _____ than other systems or organizations.
- adj. capable of being made to do something dishonest or immoral
13. The _____ properties of this herb have been known to help with various ailments.
- adj. of or relating to the treatment or cure of disease
14. The surgeon used an electric _____ to make a precise incision during the operation.
- n. a small, sharp knife or blade used in surgery or dissection for cutting tissue or separating parts of the body

ANSWERS: 8. privatize, 9. restrain, 10. anesthesia, 11. ready-made, 12. corruptible, 13. medicinal, 14. scalpel

15. The local _____ is well-respected in the community for his commitment to justice.

n. a civil officer or judge who is authorized to administer the law, particularly in a local or lower court

16. The bread was _____ and not fit for eating.

adj. no longer fresh, new, or interesting; dull or uninteresting

17. The company has been successful in maintaining the status _____.

n. the existing state or condition of something, especially in relation to a particular situation or issue

18. Her behavior testified to her _____.

n. lack of physical or intellectual ability or qualifications to do something successfully or as it should be done

19. The priest _____ my father on his deathbed.

v. to make someone officially a member of the Christian Church by baptism (= a form of Christian ritual purification)

20. The scenery of the battlefield was _____ and grey.

adj. empty, simple, or apparent; devoid of any qualifications

21. He lifted her _____ with both hands.

n. a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure

22. With _____ we can see that investing in that company was a mistake.

n. understanding or knowledge that comes after an event has occurred; the ability to perceive or understand events with greater clarity or accuracy in retrospect

ANSWERS: 15. magistrate, 16. stale, 17. quo, 18. incompetence, 19. baptized, 20. stark, 21. veil, 22. hindsight,

23. He had a _____ bender last night.

- n.* a barrier that surrounds the wheels of a vehicle to block splashing water or mud; a cushion-like device that reduces shock due to an impact

24. The actress had a _____ about her that drew people to her.

- n.* an air of secrecy, intrigue, or mystery surrounding something or someone; a sense of fascination or aura of inexplicable attraction

25. They _____ enormous power and influence.

- v.* to possess and exercise power, authority, etc

ANSWERS: 23. fender, 24. mystique, 25. wielded